

Festival explores town's maritime history

By **CAITLIN JOHNSON**

The Patriot Ledger

When Annie Sweeney was a 7-year-old girl in 1965, she saw a wooden powerboat while clamming on a hot day at a beach in Harwichport and dreamed of someday owning it.

Today, Sweeney, 45, and her husband, John, 54, of Duxbury, own that same 28-foot Lyman powerboat and showed it off this weekend at the Duxbury Classic Boat festival.

In 1999, John Sweeney was looking to buy an antique powerboat and stumbled onto the very same boat his wife saw 34 years before as a child.

"I didn't get the boat," John Sweeney said. "It got me. ... That boat is a living creature."

When Annie saw the boat, she immediately recognized it as the same boat she wished for as a child on Cape Cod. They renamed from Whimsica to Annie's Wish.

The festival is a collaborative effort of Duxbury Bay Mar-

itime School, Duxbury Yacht Club, Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, Duxbury Art Association and Snug Harbor Yachts.

It offers area residents and visitors an opportunity to experience the town's rich maritime history.

The more than 2000 people who attended Saturday's events toured the 34 classic wooden sailboats and powerboats, and observed boat maintenance, boat building and sail-making demonstrations.

Forty artists painted scenes of the waterfront, which were auctioned to raise money for the Duxbury Art Association.

The Saturday festivities ended with the "Shindig in the Shed," hosted by the Duxbury Bay Maritime School. About 235 people attended the western-style dinner and listened to the bluegrass music of the

Please see BOAT — Page 12

DUXBURY



DEBEE TLUMACKI/The Patriot Ledger

Bryce Grey, 5, of Duxbury peers through the porthole of his father's sailboat at the Duxbury Bay Classic Boat Festival on Saturday.

Duxbury boat festival honors town's history

■ BOATS

Continued from Page 11

Wildcat Bogstompers.

"The festival really demonstrates what a great community we have here in Duxbury," said Maritime School volunteer and classic boat owner Patricia MacDonald of Duxbury. "Everyone works together to make this happen."

The second day of the festival, which includes a classic boat parade and sailboat race (canceled yesterday because of fog), gives the boat owners a chance to display their prized possessions.

The Surprise, a 28-foot wooden powerboat owned by Gene Ali of Duxbury, typifies Duxbury's boat-building history.

"One of the reasons we have this festival is to remember that Duxbury exists because boats are built here," he said. The Surprise holds the unique claim of being the first boat of its size

built in the town since 1941.

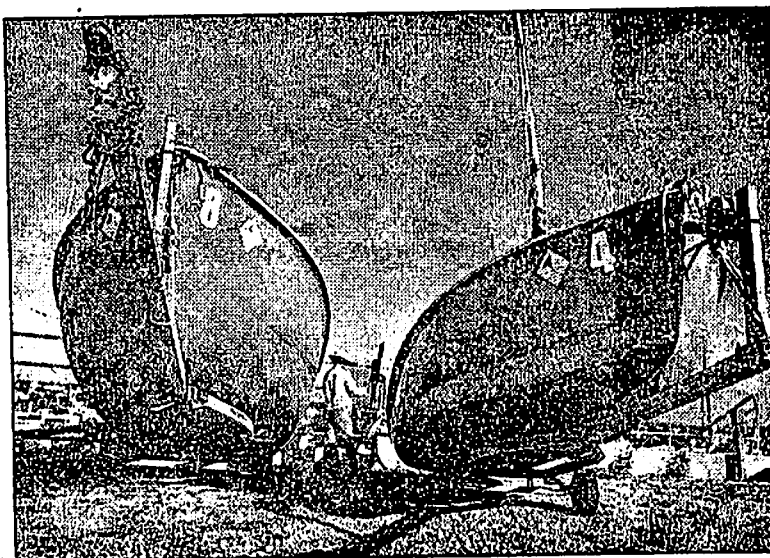
George Dow of Marshfield owns probably the most well-traveled boat in the festival. The Seraffyn, a 24-foot Lyle Hess Cutter sailboat built in 1965, was formerly owned by Lin and Larry Parday, who write and lecture about their experiences on the sea, and lived on the boat from 1968 to 1981.

The Seraffyn, which Dow estimates has traveled from 75,000 to 100,000 miles, survived typhoons in Malaysia, hurricanes off the coast of England, an aggressive school of white sharks and machine-gun-toting border patrolmen in the Red Sea.

"The boat is so sturdy, I would never feel unsafe on it," Dow said.

The public will have another chance to see these and the other classic boats Saturday, the day of the rescheduled parade and race.

Caitlin Johnson may be reached at cjohnson@ledger.com.

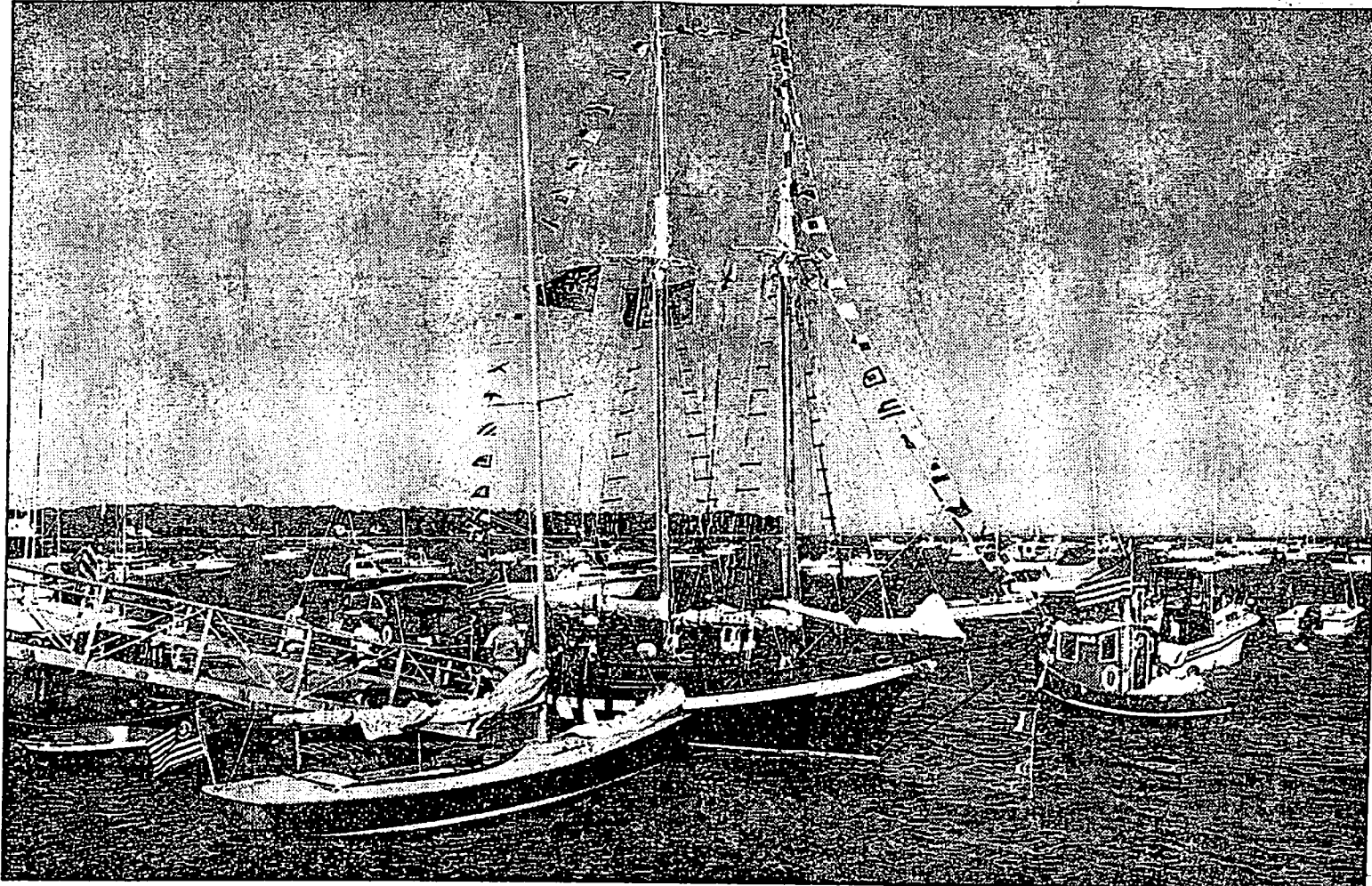


Artist Ellen Whelan of Middleboro finds a spot between two boats to paint the waterfront during the boat festival.

LOCAL

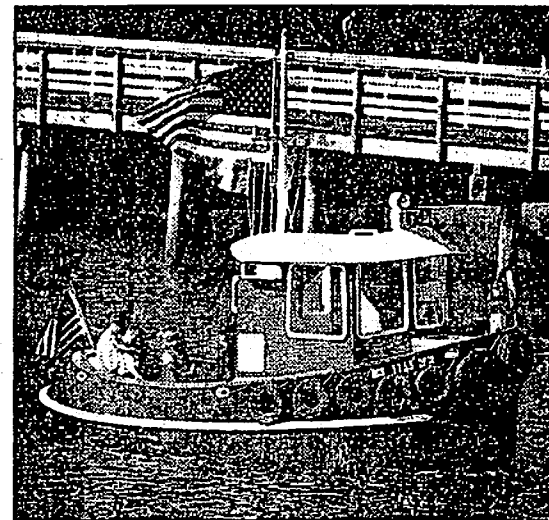
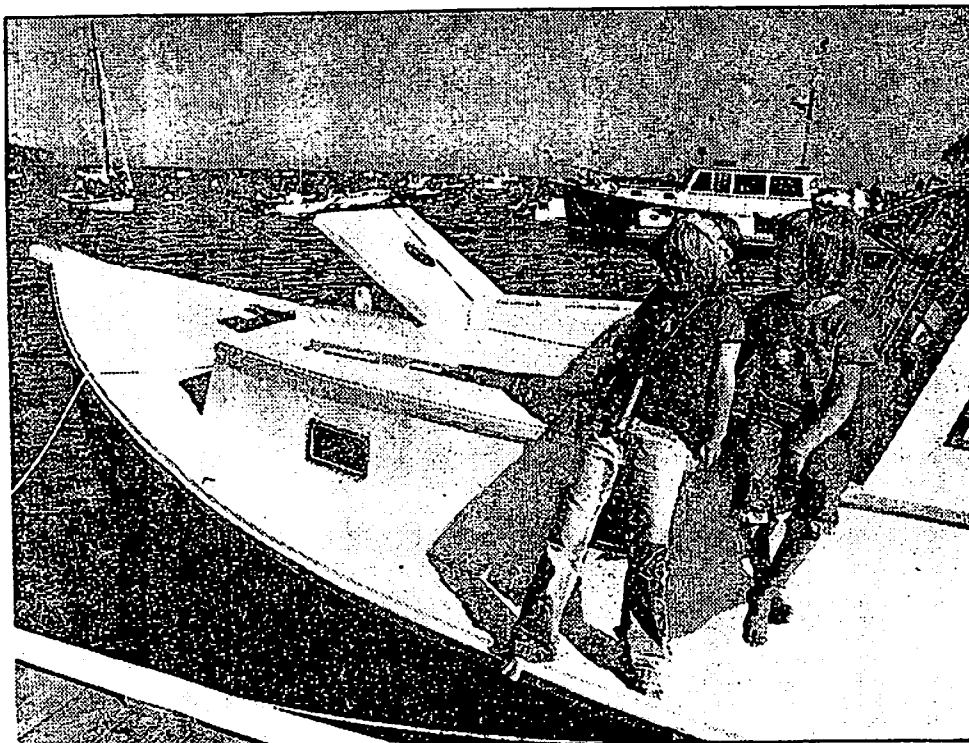
Monday, September 29, 2003

The Patriot Ledger 19



Decorated boats line the dock area during the Duxbury Classic Boat Festival in Snug Harbor on Saturday.

DEBEE TLUMACKI photos/The Patriot Ledger



Above, visitors ride aboard a decorated miniature tugboat during the festival. At left, Anna Bouthiller, 5, of Duxbury and friend Maura Woods, 5, of Duxbury play on Anna's family's boat, the Sassy B, during the event.